

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE RAE RESULTS RELEASED

LISTEN OUT FOR ZS1820S TOMORROW 7 SEPTEMBER

and

VHF virtual workshop on Saturday 12 September.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE RAE RESULTS RELEASED

Noel Hammond, ZR6DX told SARL News that the RAE results letter has been e-mailed to all the candidates who wrote on Saturday 29 August. This RAE has been a challenge for everyone involved due to the pandemic. The exam dates were postponed on two occasions and special protocols had to be put in place for the RAE to go ahead. We had 209 applications to write the RAE, which is a record number of entries, however, only 178 exam numbers were issued. Of these we had a few cancellations before the exams. This left us with 173 people who elected to write under COVID level 2 lockdown conditions. Of these 49 did not attend the exam session. There were 27 exam centres, with some centres having to cater for a morning and afternoon session. This was done to accommodate social distancing, hence two exam papers had to be set. Each exam centre had to follow strict COVID protocols. Of the 124 who wrote, 119 candidates passed.

Noel wishes to thank the RAE team of Kelley and Gerhard, ZS6CRS for all their efforts. He also wishes to thank the lecturers for all the time they have put into mentoring the candidates, some via online platforms under difficult circumstances. Thanks also go to the invigilators and HF assessors for their time and help. Without these willing people the RAE would not have been such a great success.

Congratulations to all the new amateurs, we hope you will enjoy the hobby for many years to come.

LISTEN OUT FOR ZS1820S TOMORROW 7 SEPTEMBER

Monday 7 September marks the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the 1820 British Settlers. To commemorate this, members of PEARS will operate a field station at the iconic Donkin Reserve in Port Elizabeth using ZS1820S from 04:00 until about 09:00 UTC on 80, 40 and 20 m SSB as conditions dictate. The QSL card for 7 September is from a "special event station for a special event!"

THE SARL NATIONAL FIELD DAY ON 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER

The second leg of the National Field Day takes place from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 12 September to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 13 September 2020 with phone, CW and digital activity on 160 to 10 metres. The exchange is the number of transmitters, the Field Day operating class and your provincial abbreviation, the sending of a RS or RST report is optional.

If you are planning to participate as Class A - Field Station, Multi operator or Class B - Field Station, Multi operator QRP, please adhere to the current health regulations in place. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the MS Excel log sheet and send it by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za by Monday 21 September 2020. Get all the information on page 37 of the 2020 Blue Book.

THE 2021 BLUE BOOK

Work on the 2021 Blue Book will start in October, but clubs hosting a contest are requested to look at the current rules and decide whether changes are needed or not. The digital contest needs to be revamped and we are looking for a club to host this contest and draw up a new set of rules. Suggestions for new contests are also welcome.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

VHF virtual workshop on Saturday 12 September.

The SARL/AMSAT SA VHF workshop will be held on Saturday 12 September from 10:00 - 13:00 on the BlueJeans platform. Note the new date, a week earlier than originally announced. The agenda includes presentations about meteor scatter, two new AMSATSA Yagis, a multimode beacon system, a new approach to noise monitoring and the importance to include the VHF bands.

Learn how Yagis are designed and constructed, how you can stack Yagis and Gary Immelman, ZS6YI will be sharing the design of the two new single band AMSATSA antennas for 2 and 70 cm. The registration fee is R20 for SARL and AMSATSA members and R50 for non-members. Students can register free with their student number or school details. The registration form is available on the SARL and AMSATSA home pages. To pay by credit card go to www.amsatsa.org.za. Take your amateur radio experience to a new level this Saturday. Register today.

First AMSATSA Space Symposium papers on the web

The first presentation made at the AMSATSA Space Symposium will be available for download on www.amsatsa.org.za. An audio recording by Tom van den Bon as well as his PowerPoint presentation on SATNOGS are now also available for download.

THE 2020 IARU REGION 1 VIRTUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

The IARU Region 1 Virtual General Conference will run from 11 to 16 October and the papers for the Conference are available on <https://r1papers.wordpress.com/>. The papers are for Committee 3 - Administration; Committee 4 - the Permanent HF Committee; Committee 5 - the Permanent VHF, UHF and Microwave Committee and Committee 7 - the EMC Committee. Have you had a look at the papers?

TWO CONTESTS ON 19 AND 20 SEPTEMBER

Over the weekend of 19 and 20 September, you have the choice of two contests. The Africa All Mode International DX Contest as well as the second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest will be on the air. Turn to page 16 and 50 in the 2020 Blue Book for all the information.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20, 30 and 40 m bands will, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some DX fun.

Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

7 September – Settlers Day - arrival of the 1820 Settlers 200 years ago and work ZS1820S

12 September – the SARL/AMSATSA VHF Workshop

12 and 13 September – the SARL National Field Day

15 September – the Highway ARC meeting

16 September – the SARL 80 m Wednesday Club Sprint

19 September – the European SOTA Day

19 and 20 September – the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest and the All Africa DX Contest

22 September - Spring Equinox (15:31 CAT)

24 September – the ZS SOTA Day on Heritage Day and National Braai Day

26 September – the Cape Town ARC meeting

26 and 27 September – the CQ WW RTTY Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, edited by

Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.